The Witch City Philatelist

Vol. I. SALEM, MASS., SEPTEMBER, 1887. No. 3.

Second Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association.

The Second Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Association was held at the Tremont House, Chicago, Ill., at 10.30 a.m., on Monday, August 8th, and continued its session through three days. The whole number present or represented by proxy was 184.

The morning of the first day was taken up with the examining of the proxies by the Committee on Credentials; the afternoon by the reports of the Committees on Standing Rules and Finance, the Secretary the Superintendent of Exchange and the Purchasing Agent, and the reading of various communications; the evening session of the same day was occupied by the address of President Tiffany and the report of Mr. E. B. Sterling as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, with the reading of a communication from the Librarian, and an invitation for the convention to hold its next meeting at St. Louis.

At the first session of Tuesday, Aug. 9th, committees were appointed to draw up resolutions respecting the inventor of adhesive postage stamps, on adopting some badge or device for the Association, and to see about photographing the constitution. Reports were read from the Treasurer, showing a balance of $88.00 on hand, from the Committee on the Library on whose recommendation $25.00 was appropriated for binding volumes of magazines, etc., and from the Committee on the Exchange Department. *Boston* was decided upon as the next place of meeting.

Tuesday evening the convention listened to the reports of Committees on Exchanges and Purchasing Departments on Branch Societies.on the Convention Photograph, on the Badge of the Association, on the Finance Committee, the Committee on the Official Journal and that on the Constitution and By-Laws. The most important changes were as follows: dues payable semi-annually and are $1.00 per year for non-voters under 17 years of age. Two assistants are given the Purchasing Agent, and Counterfeit Detector is appointed to examine the stamps sent to the Exchange Department. A Library Board of 3 is appointed in place of an Editor who conducts an Official Journal for the Association. This may be subscribed to for (50 cents) per annum by outsiders, and may be advertised in at the rate of 75 cts. per inch for non-members, 50 cents for members. The revised Constitution was ordered printed, and the resignation of the *Western Philatelists'* proposition of official organ was accepted.

At 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the members of the Association sat down to a banquet tendered them by the Chicago Philatelic Society, which was heartily enjoyed by all present.

On Wednesday the convention was photographed as a group. Copies may be procured of Secretary at $1.50 each. After assembling, a resolution in favor of Mr. Chalmers as inventor of adhesive postage stamps was passed, and after the transaction of business of minor importance the convention adjourned.

Punched Spanish Stamps.

Many of the Spanish postage stamps exist with a hole punched in them. These specimens formed part of the remainders of their respective series, on hand when they were withdrawn, to be succeeded by a new set. The obliterating mark was made by order of the authorities, to prevent their being used for payment of postage, consequently the remainder were sold to dealers.

The total receipts af the U. S. Post Office Department in 1836 were $4.945.668.21, in 1886 the receipts were $52.699.493.68.

During the year 1886 there were 16,164 magazines, pamphlets, illustrated papers, picture cards, &c., which could not be restored to the owners, distributed among the committees of the various hospitals, asylums and other charitable institutions in the District of Columbia, by order of the Post Master General.

It is astonishing how many "stamp" papers there are in existence at the present time. Just think what a few there were five years ago.

Watermarks.

We had a very pleasant call last month from Messrs. O. A. Dale and F. D. Donoghue, the well known stamp dealers, of Georgetown, Mass., and we enjoyed the visit very much. We are always glad to welcome any of our philatelic friends.

Our subscription price has been reduced to 15 cents for a short time *only*. All should take advantage of this offer, as we shall not make another reduction after we enlarge, which will be in a short time.

The six States having the largest number of post offices, are as follows: Pennsylvania, 4,001; New York, 3,215; Ohio, 2,763; Virginia, 2,281; Illinois, 2,229; Missouri, 2,057.

Two million postal cards are printed daily, at present.

There are postmasters in the U. S. whose salaries are not particularly extravagant. The total number of postmasters receiving less than $1,000 per annum is 50,582, and of these 37,269 receive less than $200. There are 26,044 in the two grades paying less than $20 per quarter. Of the 50,572 offices which are included in this table, 48,003 pay between $400 and $520, per annum, and more than one-half of the rest pay less than $100 per year.

A new post office in Virginia is named Malaria.

Among the curiosities which have been pointed out to visitors lately in Washington are twelve sacks of smuggled jewelry, from South Boston. The jewelry was found carefully wrapped in newspapers, and was forwarded to the Dead-letter Office for disposal.

Mr. A. Howard Noyes, the well known stamp dealer of Haverhill, Mass. is traveling through the West in the interest of Burrowes Screen Co., of Portland, Me.

Probably the largest and finest collection of stamps in New England is owned by Mr. Wm. H. Page, of Haverhill, Mass. It consists of mostly unused specimens. The collection of U. S. adhesives is complete, in unused condition, and contains all the large values of State Department. Mr. Page trades largely with English dealers. Besides his regular collection he has all the proofs of U. S. adhesives mounted on a large card, in the form of the Capitol, at Washington; this surrounded by a huge gilt frame, is hung in the hall at Mr. Page's residence, in Bradford.

The Philatelic Press.

The initial number of the *Buckeye State Collector* is before us. It has a department devoted to philately and the items are quite interesting, but it strikes us as very queer that brother Smith can make such a large and neatly printed paper pay, when the price per page for advertisements is only $2.00, and each page contains over fifteen inches of space. Perhaps he is only doing it for the fun of the thing, however.

The *Southern Collector*, of Tuskegee, Ala., has transferred its subscription list to the *Buckeye State Collector*, and one more philatelic editor has laid his pen aside.

Where is the *Philatelic Fortnightly* and the *Chariton Gazette*? We haven't seen either of them for some time.

Beginning September 1st, the *Curiosity World* will be issued as a semi-monthly sheet. This is the largest paper devoted to philately that has undertaken to issue two copies monthly and the venture will no doubt prove a success.

One of our most interesting exchanges is the *Corona News-Letter* of Corona, N. J. Although not devoted to our hobby, still it contains many items of interest to the general public.

We think another column or so could be added to the philatelic department of the *Agassiz Companion* without much effort on the part of its editor. Our hobby deserves more space in such a large and excellent paper and we trust brother Plank will take the hint.

The *Philatelic Gazette* for July comes out in a new coat, and presents a very neat appearance.

Messrs. McBride and Weber, of Pawnee City, Neb. have changed the name of their paper. It is now called the *Collectors Aid*. May success be theirs.

A new paper from Paris, Texas, sailing under the high sounding name of the "*Texas Philatelic Journal*" comes into our office just as we are going to press. Its editor is Edgar T. Neville, formerly one of the proprietors of the defunct *Texas Philatelist*. Its four pages contains several rank typographical errors, but it may improve and get a few subscribers if better paper is used. Anyway, we hope it has come to stay.

The Witch City Philatelist.

Official organ of

The Salem Philatelic Society.

FRED. C. T. DAVIS, P. S. JOHNSON, } Editors and Publishers.

Salem, Essex Co., Mass., U.S.A.

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Entered at Salem Post Office as second class matter.

CIRCULATION 1,000

We rather guess that there will be no more bogus stamps sent out from this city by the wholesale, from present appearances although there may be a few smuggled out on the sly along with "genuine" stamps.

In the death of Mr. L. W. Durbin, of Philadelphia, the well known stamp importer and dealer, philately has lost one of its firmest supporters and admirers.

He was always perfectly honest in his dealings. His catalogues were among the best and always accurate and cheap.

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10 " " " 20 "
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All unused cards, envelopes, bands and stamps of Uruguay, Argentine, Chili, Ecuador and Colombia forwarded at 25 per cent. above face value. All postage extra and cash in advance.

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Arequipas and surcharges and other rarities always in stock,

Note–Stamp papers kindly insert 3 times ¼ page. and send bill. Payment by return mail guaranteed.

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The increasing business in our Shoe Department is a sure indication that the public are appreciating our efforts to furnish Reliable Shoes at a slight advance in cost from the production.

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